Celebration of Life

1971

2009

REMEMBRANCES

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever: Psalms 23:6

Karla LaShon Shepherd was born to her proud parents John Cooley Shepherd and Lynda Renee Gatson on April 30, 1971. Karla was doted over by her grandparents, aunts and uncles alike as she was one of the first grandchildren.

Karla was educated in the Richmond Unified School District. Karla later furthered her eductation by enrolling in nursing school where she received her Licensed Vocational Nursing Certification. Karla worked for several years as an LVN at various Bay Area Hospitals, nursing facilities and served as a private duty nurse for home bound patients.

Karla met Andrew (A.C) Jackson in 1996. They fell in love and were married March 6, 1998. In addition to being husband and wife they were best friends.

Karla proudly accepted Christ into her life in November 2005 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond, CA and was baptized by Pastor Kevin B. Hall. In 2008 Karla moved her membership to New Bethel Baptist Church, Stockton, CA. under the pastorate of Rev. Dwight Williams. Karla was an active member and so proud and excited of her new church, she wanted to share her worship experience with all of her family and friends.

Karla was preceded in death by her father in 1983 and most recently by her mother in 2001. Karla joined them in heaven on July 27, 2009 when she departed this life as she slept peacefully in her home.

Karla's presence will be truly missed; however, each of us has a "crazy Karla" story to tell, a memorable moment to share, an annual birthday call - guaranteed. Or just an image of her smiling face. Holding those memories close to your heart will Karla alive in spirit always.

Karla is survived by her husband, Andrew C Jackson, her stepdaughters Latasha and Shawanna Jackson, and granddaughter LaTashanique; sister and brother Felicia SeCrease and Kevin Smith; Aunts Clara Martin, Cathy Harris, Delores Murray, Donna Gatson, Diane McGaffie, Grace Lapitan, Marcia Gatson, Theresa Edwards. Uncles Keith and Michael Gatson, Bobby Harmon, Garland Harris and Lonnie Martin; Brother in law Leonard SeCrease; Nephews Patrick, Phillip, Perris SeCrease. Karla left precious memories with each of her cousins: Billy, Diane, Michelle and Rosalind Harmon, Elton & Nicole Sims, Jessica McGaffie,Kohl Byndloss, Kai Harris, Kianna, Ferryne & Payton Gatson, Rita, LaTasha & LaTisha Shepherd, Megan Fontenot, Mykisha & Mykel Gatson, Sharon Johnson, Stephanie & Stephan Muccular. She was preceded in death by her dear cousin and friend Terrance Martin. In addition to her immediate family...Karla being the outgoing person she was leaves many relatives, extended family and friends not named above.

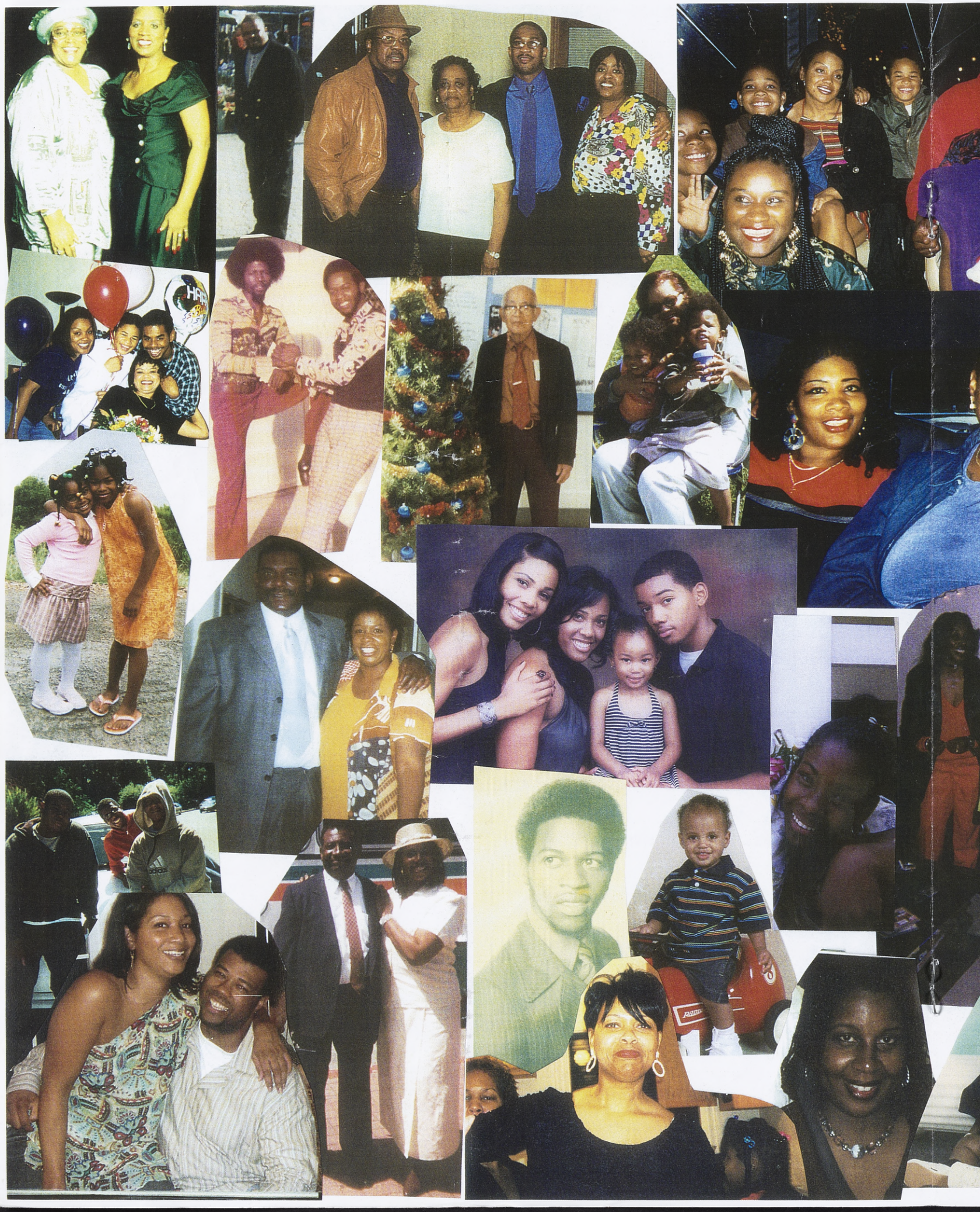
ORDER OF SERVICE

Thursday, Aug 6, 2009
11:00 O'clock a.m.
Baker-Williams Funeral Home
980 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94606
Master of Ceremony—Pastor Dwight Williams

Processional	Clergy & Family
Eulogy	Pastor Williams
Old Testament	Minister Darius Johnson
New Testament	Minister Darius Johnson
Solo	Sister L. Granger

Reflections (Please limit to 2 minutes each please)

Acknowledgements	Sharon Martin
Obituary	Gwen Easter
Proclamation of Hope	Pastor Williams
Recessional	Clergy & Family



Dear Karla,
You are my sister, you are my friend...
Karla, we've been there through life's joy, sorrow and pain
But together we have always endured the strain
we've argued and bickered and made each other mad.
But if you weren't my sister, life would have been so sad
We've cried till we laughed and laughed till we cried.
Sometimes for no reason we didn't even know why.
When we're not together our bond is just as strong.
Because we are sisters we know when something is wrong.
We've whispered deep secrets only sisters could share.
I love you sister because you have always cared.
So whether we are together or we are far apart
Karla, you're my sister, my friend, and will live forever
in my heart.
Love your big sister Felicia

Dear Karla,
If tears could be a stairway and thoughts a memory lane
I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again
No farewell words were spoken
No time to say goodbye
You were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why
In God's care you rest above
In our hearts you rest with love
Memories of you are ours to keep
Our words are few but our love is deep
Rest well Dear Karla
You will be missed
When the soft wind hits our cheeks
We'll know we've just been kissed
Love Auntie Donna

Dear Karla,
I thank you Lord for my friends, aunts and uncles,
Grandparents, mother and father, my sister and now my niece
I thank you Jesus for you are such a forgiving Lord.
But I shall tear not, for I now know they're all at peace.
When you call me home send me also to that angel that
will welcome me aboard.
All love the Lord for he has paid the price so that we can
be with Karla again but this time in paradise.
I love you Kaka...rest in peace.
Love Uncle Michael

IM FREE
Don't grieve for me for now I'm free. I'm following the path God
laid for me. I took his hand when I heard him call. I turned my back
and left it all. I could not stay another day. To laugh, to love, to work
or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that peace at the close of the day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered JOY! A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, ah yes these things too I will miss! Be not burdened with time of sorrow. I wish
you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life's been full, I've savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief. Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up
your heart and share with me. God wanted me now...he set me free!

Happy Birthday Karla

Now who is going to call everybody bright and early with birthday wishes on their birthday? Each and everyone of us always looked forward to that first phone call every birthday. Nobody was going to beat you calling to say "Happy Birthday" And you never forgot! You didn't miss a birthday!

Now, Sweetheart, you have experienced a very unique birthday. No-not April 30, 1971. This Special Birthday was July 27th, 2009. Yes, Karla, that's the day you were born in Glory. For you see, we all have the understanding that when you gave your life to the Lord and were baptized in 2005, you would spend eternity with the Lord. I remember all of us were so happy!

Paul, the Apostle, said in 2 Corinthians 5:8
"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

So last Monday, you left your mortal body. No matter how it pained us for you to be absent from the body we knew, you were willing to be present with the Lord-born brand new in Heaven.

We know how happy you were when you got your home in Stockton--How you like to decorate, how everything had to be neat and clean, how you kept it just so'. But we can only imagine how happy you must be in your new home over in Glory--and it's yours, yours, all yours!

So, Karla, we all wish you a wonderful, glorious Happy Birthday!
We will always love you!

Aunt Delores

Honorary Pall Bearers

Patrick Crockett Phillip SeCrease
Perris SeCrease Stephan Muccular
Andre Smith Kevin Smith Jr.
Dorian Smith Keith Gatson
Michael Gatson Kimberly Miles

Our appreciation to the Pattersons
The Gatson and the Shepherd families would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to the Patterson family for who and what they have been in Karla's life, for all their wonderful examples of love and kindness over the years.

Appreciation

"Our family is a circle of strength
and love. With every birth
and every union the circle grows.
Every joy shared adds more love.
Every crisis faced together makes the
circle stronger".
We the family of Karla LaShon Shepherd Jackson
wish to express our heartfelt appreciation an
gratitude for all of your expressions of bereavement.
May God bless and keep you.